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The BIG NEWS is WARP's move to its NEW OFFICES in Accra!

On October 01, 2003, the West Africa Regional Program (USAID/WARP) officially moved from Bamako, Mali to Accra, Ghana. WARP now occupies a newly constructed wing within USAID/Accra. The commissioning plaque was unveiled by The Honorable Ambassador Mary C. Yates, U.S Ambassador to Ghana on October 18, 2003. WARP's Agriculture/Food Security & Environment Team will however remain in Bamako through FY2005.

Unveiling of commissioning plaque
By Ambassador Mary C. Yates



Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS:

AWARE Succeeds FHA

The Family Health and AIDS Prevention Project (FHA) formally ended on September 30, 2003. Started in 1995 to address reproductive health (RH) and child survival (CS) problems in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo, the project sponsored the region's first HIV/AIDS cross-border intervention and met USAID's health development assistance needs during a period of restructuring. *We thank all of the health professionals and our implementing partners (above all JHPIEGO, Tulane University, PSI, JHU/CCP, FHI, USA-based groups), regional NGOs, and governments that contributed to making this project a resounding success.*

The new **West African Regional Health Project, (AWARE)**, kicked off in Accra on September 28-October 2, 2003, at an orientation workshop for stakeholder organizations. FHI leads the HIV/AIDS component, while EngenderHealth leads the Reproductive Health and Child Survival (RH/CS) component. Other partners include the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and CERPOD. AWARE will support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member countries plus Chad, Cameroon, and Mauritania. Funding priorities under the new regional program are the following: HIV/AIDS comprises 47%, followed by RH at 44%, CS 5%, and ID 4%. Unlike its predecessor project, AWARE resources will be focused largely, but not exclusively, on non-USAID presence countries. Since

promoting regional health issues is the focus of the project, AWARE will feature promoting the adoption of best and promising practices in the region, cross-border interventions, especially in HIV/AIDS, and building the capacity of regional institutions and networks to provide services at the national level.

AWARE Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meets in Accra: USAID Health Officers from the region and Embassy representatives from six non-USAID presence countries met in Accra on November 20-21, 2003, to review WARP's health program transition, planned partner activities, case studies on best and promising practices, while offering guidance on future directions. AWARE is committed to sharing work plans as well as information on funding opportunities with the TAG on an ongoing basis.

National Health Accounts (NHA) Workshop in Dakar: Co-funded by WARP/AWARE, WHO, and others, the first technical training for francophone countries on methodologies for determining NHA took place in Dakar from September 28 to October 4, 2003.

World Bank Cross-Border Project for Abidjan-Lagos Traffic Corridor: The World Bank-funded Cross-Border project along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor was inaugurated December 10-11, 2003. The project was inspired, in part, by USAID's FHA project on north-south migratory routes. AWARE-HIV/AIDS program managers and the World Bank are examining opportunities for future collaboration on cross-border programs.

6th International Care and Support Conference: WARP sponsored representatives from NGOs of persons living with HIV/AIDS to attend this conference, held in Dakar on December 9-10, 2003.

ECOWAS Reproductive Health (RH) Care Managers Meeting: From November 11-14, 2004, top managers of RH services in the region were invited by WAHO to review a regional commodity security initiative and a draft strategy for the reduction of maternal and perinatal mortality.

Upcoming Events

- **Young Professionals Internship Program Design:** On February 19-20, AWARE will meet in Accra with WAHO, CDC, Tulane, and others to discuss the design of the young professionals internship program and to clarify roles and responsibilities. The program's objective is to provide young West African graduates with bilingual language skills, computer technology skills, and professional experience in their health fields.
- In January and February, AWARE and WARP field support partners will develop **Contraceptive Procurement Tables (CPTs) in Cameroon and Togo**, as well as hold orientation meetings for contraceptive **commodities security transition plans**. The CPTs will determine contraceptive needs for the two countries through 2006. Later in the year, participants will develop contraceptive procurement transition plans that permit these countries to plan their transition from USAID funding for contraceptives to other sources of funding.
- The last week of March, AWARE-RH will support a **Best Practices Task Force Meeting** to enable its stakeholders to reach consensus on criteria for selecting best practices and to select best practices that can address identified regional priority needs in the areas of family planning, reproductive health, child survival, and infectious disease.
- AWARE HIV/AIDS will hold a consultative meeting on a proposed **Study of the Impact of Conflict on HIV/AIDS**. This workshop will bring together development partners and those working on HIV/AIDS and humanitarian and emergency response to define: 1) the objectives of the proposed study, 2) the process for protocol development, 3) roles and responsibilities. Funding issues will also be discussed
- AWARE HIV/AIDS is planning a **Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCMs) Workshop** in collaboration with WAHO from February 17-20. The workshop, which will be attended by representatives of CTMs from the ECOWAS member states plus Cameroon Mauritania and Chad, is intended

to build support for the GFATM regional proposal developed by WAHO. It will also furnish an opportunity to discuss and

identify the capacity strengthening needs of the different CCMs.

Food Security, Natural Resources Management & Environment -ROLF ANDERSON

1) USAID/Food security adviser Mr. Jorge Oliveira, attend the CILSS Annual Work plan and budget meeting in Djamena/Chad, from 6 to 9th October 2003.

The meeting discusses the 2003 activity report and the 2004 work plan.

WARP announces their contribution to this work plan concentrated on:

- Strengthening the early warning system and the food security monitoring at national and regional level
- Harmonizing the framework for vulnerability assessment
- Extending food security monitoring to the UEMOA coastal countries.
- Diffusing information's
- Contributing to the land/use land cover trend analysis of West Africa
- Training national and regional staff's on various domain's
- Contributing for the studies and research on agriculture production system
- Organizing harmonized regulations for seed on Sahel and West Africa.
- Supporting NARS on their medium and long term research plan
- Supporting Farmers organization's
- Institutional support and Capacity building to CILSS.

2) USAID/Food security Advisor Jorge Oliveira, attend the annual crop monitoring meeting held in Bamako from 3 to 6 November that analyze the last year figures and the forecast for the 2003/2004 crop season, that announce a record of 14,263,514 tons of cereals against 11,433,844 from last year.

If this figures are confirmed, the Sahel will register a significant gross cereal output, 25% higher than 2002/2003 crop season, and 31% higher than the past five years average.

In face of the significant cereals surplus expected this year the meeting recommends putting in place of mechanisms in order to avoid a slump in farmer/producers (Building up national and community stocks, taking incentives to process locally the cereals etc...).



3) SO6 team (team leader Rolf Anderson and food security adviser Jorge Oliveira) attend a meeting organized by CORAF to discuss the restructuring of the crop networks, their linkages with the NARS at the national level and with IARS (IITA, ICISAT, WARDA) at the regional level

In addition, the meeting had discussions of the TOR for the evaluation and proposal for the new phase of the Networks.

USAID is supporting these NETWORKS since five years and the responsibility was giving to the WARP team to reorganize them in collaboration of CORAF, INSAH, IARS and NARS.



(Insert photo of the group).

4) WARP is supporting the farmers and entrepreneurs organizations of West Africa.

SO6 team met with representatives of ROPPA, REFESA, and INTERFACE in

Dakar to discuss future collaboration inside CILSS program.

The main preoccupations of this three organizations was on strengthened their communications by an electronic system; increase their institutional capacity building; specific training for theirs members (especially women's),

and participations in national, regional and international events.

5) WARP attends a very important workshop organized by WAEMU with his national regional and international partners, presenting their Agriculture work program and the food security strategy.

Also they present two mechanisms to support small farmer's organizations in credit: "The Regional Agricultural Development Fund" and "The Regional Solidarity Bank".

The collaboration between WARP and WAEMU was strengthen this year with a joint agreement WARP/CILSS/WAEMU enabling Agrhymet to extend to the three WAEMU coastal countries (Ivory Coast, Benin and Togo) the early warning system and crop monitoring in a three years program.

In addition, WARP is supporting the elaboration of the Common Agricultural Policy in collaboration with ECOWAS, CILSS and WAEMU.

6) USAID /WARP was supporting CILSS since ten years in Land Tenure and sustainable development in the Sahel, organizing the first Conference in Praia in 1994 where some orientations were given in this mater.

In November 2003 CILSS organized the Praia+ 9 Conference to analyze this orientations and recomandations, on: land policy options: status of the legal and institutional framework on land tenure and NRM; level of consideration for the needs and interests of specific groups (women, the youth, stockbreeders, migrants etc.) in land tenure and NRM policies and laws; level of enforcement of the adopted laws etc...

The Conference produce a ‘‘Final Declaration’’ that cal the Head of the States of CILSS WAEMU and ECOWAS to take appropriate dispositions to discuss and adopt a common policy in land tenure through a regional land tenure convention.

7) WARP attends the 38th Council of ministers of CILSS and in Mauritania celebrating the 30 anniversary of this organization. In this occasion, they organized several meetings like the network and crisis prevention on Sahel, partners committee meeting, Steering committee for the CILSS Endowment Fund, annual program and budgeting committee of CILSS.

NEXT QUARTERLY.

The most important activities for the first quarter of 2004 is the implementation of the new harmonized framework on vulnerability assessment, the extension of the early warning system for the WAEMU coastal countries, the presentation of the first draft of the West Africa Common agricultural Policy, and the implementation of the new CILSS structures under the organizational audit recommendation

I propose inserting a piece on the Advisory Board Meeting in this box

Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA):

This summer, WARP’s action plan for agriculture was granted provisional approval. Under the Science and Technology part of this program, WARP will be supporting rice, maize, sorghum, and millet commodity networks in 2004 (in association with WARDA, IITA and ICRISAT). Under the rubric of markets and trade, WARP will be implementing a regional Market Information System (see page 7). In biotechnology, WARP chose to buy into several field support mechanisms that will support development of biotech policies and provide technical assistance in developing biotech programs. The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project (ABSP) II will be used to promote the application of modern biotechnology tools to improving agricultural productivity. The Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) will address biosafety regulatory policy.

Regional Economic Integration:

October 2003 – The West African Business Women’s Network (WABNET or REFAO) held its second **Region-wide Annual Conference** in Conakry, Guinea in October. Sixty-women from 10

countries through out West Africa met to set the agenda organization’s coming year. Conference activities included seminars in financial management for small businesses, leadership training, accessing AGOA, and internet

effectiveness. A **Trade Show** enabled the participants to display activities from individual chapters and sell goods. The next Annual Meeting will be held in Lomé, Togo.

A Small Grants Program, launched during the WABNET meeting, will permit regional organizations to apply on a quarterly basis for a grant “to enhance a small business or organization oriented toward supporting the growth of women’s businesses.” Financed through ECOGEE program, the first call for proposals garnered 11 requests. The first program’s first grant will fund the purchase of equipment to enhance the offices of the WABNET chapter in Accra, Ghana.

ECOWAS Secretariat Management Training: The second in a series of training events for ECOWAS senior managers took place in Accra, Ghana in November. With its focus on strategic planning and leadership skills development, the training is expected to enhance the Secretariat’s capacity to design and implement programs that foster integration in West Africa.



Product show at the WABNET Meeting - Guinea

ECOTRADE(Common External Tariff) : The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and a representative of the 8-member states of

the West African Economic and Monetary Union met in Accra, Ghana to discuss country specific progress and the expansion of the common external tariff. All countries have made notable progress except Cape Verde. Subsequent to the meeting Nigeria announced its migration to the ECOWAS tariff structure.



A booth at the textile show

WAIBL Trade Mission to the United States – Textiles and Apparel. From December 3 to 5, 2003, the Corporate Council on Africa’s WAIBL program organized a U.S. - West Africa Textile and Apparel Trade Mission. WAIBL sponsored a delegation of West African textile and apparel manufacturers to visit the U.S. and arranged meetings for them in Washington, D.C. and New York, N.Y. Some members of the delegation also attended the AGOA Private Sector Session in Washington.

Investment Promotion Forum. A dynamic and well designed workshop was held in Bamako, Mali December 9-12 to assist the Investment Promotion Agencies in ECOWAS member countries to understanding how analyzing and designing activities to promote investment could be low cost, effective and attractive to investors. The forum sessions included in-depth

training on the use of internet based tools, attracting investors, understanding the needs of the countries private sector, and developing materials for potential investors. Representatives from the World Bank Group's MIGA, the International Trade Center in Geneva, and UNIDO participated in the event.

Upcoming Events

The Second Announcement of the ECOGEE Small Grants Facility will be take place between January and March 2004. Information will be widely distributed in the next several weeks.

Leadership Workshop: A weeklong leadership workshop for approximately 30 women will be held mid-February in Bamako under the aegis of the ECOGEE program. The workshop will include women from throughout the region, including some member of the WABNET board. The workshop, is intended to take women who already have leadership skills, and hone and strengthen the skills to manage and

promote themselves and their organizations more effectively.

Financial Instruments Compendium:

The long-awaited, long overdue compilation of financial instruments available to businesses in the region should be completed and distributed by the end of the month.

WAIBL will host an Information and Communications Technology Business Forum in Newark, NJ. This event will highlight business opportunities in the information technology, telecommunications, software development and data processing sectors for U.S. and West African businesses. Attendees will have a rare chance to gain in-depth industry knowledge and discuss projects and partnerships with U.S. and West African firms. Agenda and registration details will be available in late January at www.ccawaibl.com.

A follow-on **“Paired” Trade Mission**, composed of delegates from the United States, will be held in the region in April.

West Africa Trade Hub Update:

Trade Hub – present quarter

- WATH defined the modalities and scope of WATH involvement in SPS harmonization with WAEMU.
- Three visits were made to Nigeria, that culminated in the commissioning of the Nigeria AGOA Resource Center (ARC), hosted by the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce in Lagos
- Three West Africans have been sponsored to participate in the 3rd AGOA Forum Private Sector Session in Washington DC.
- WATH delivered a workshop on “AGOA and doing business with the US market” at the *Festival international de la mode africaine* (FIMA '03) in Niger. The opportunity was used to showcase selected hand-weavers through an advertising sheet.
- The maiden WATH Newsletter was distributed to close to 500 people on the

- updated contact list
- WATH will take part in the AGOA Forum and the Private Sector Session. Adjunct meetings to the Forum will specifically address under-supply of America's handicrafts market as well as the deepening of the textile, apparel and agricultural product market under the Act.

Trade Hub next quarter

- Establishment of additional AGOA Resource Centers in Mauritania, Chad and Cameroon.
- Workshops in Burkina, Mali, & Mauritania on “AGOA and doing business with the US market” and “market intelligence”
- SPS implementation status assessment in Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia
- Begin work on Hub new areas like Agro export promotion, transport facilitation, and SPS measures harmonization with WAEMU
- Regional Workshop for Managers of ARCs
- Provision of technical assistance to the national governments of Mali, Niger and Senegal in obtaining Category 9 certificates required for the export hand-loomed textiles under AGOA.
- www.watradehub.com

WAIBL-last quarter

- www.ccawaibl.com
- WAIBL funded a delegation of 7 West Africans to the United States to take part in a textile trade mission and the AGOA private sector forum.
- On October 16, 2003 more than 100 businesses from 10 West Africa nations convened in Accra, Ghana to participate in WAIBL's *U.S.-West Africa Textile and Apparel Trade Seminar*.

Regional Market Information Systems

- Two competing designs for this 5 year project by IITA and IFDC are slated to be completed by March 2004. Contact the design teams now if you want to have input on this project: j.gockowski@cgiar.org, k.amegbeto@cgiar.org, kdebrah@ifdc.org, and pannequin@ifdc.org.

WARP PARTICIPATION IN FIMA, DEC., 2003. – KWASI YEBOAH-KONADU

The West African Regional Program participated in the 4th Edition of the

International Festival of African Fashion, usually known by its French

Acronym, FIMA (Festival International de Mode Africain) from December 1-4, 2003 in Niamey.

Even though the Program's participation was principally delivered through our Contractors, the West African Trade Hub (WATH) who did an excellent presentation on the AGOA, our presence resulted in three major initiatives, namely:

- *Discussions with the Niger Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SME Section).*

The purpose of the discussions was to establish the extent to which

Nigerian small scale business persons had targeted the West African market. The discussions were very instructive and productive to the extent that the members identified the usual barriers that face indigenous businesses in West Africa, such as excessive non-tariff barriers including administrative impediments, lack of credit and other support services. The positive side however is the fact that they are building up regional trade networks in almost all the ECOWAS countries through the West African Business Network (WABNET) which has affiliates across the region.

- *Discussions with the Sub-Regional Development Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).*

We held a series of discussions with Dr. Emile S. Ahohe, the Senior Economics Officer responsible for intra-ECOWAS trade. The Centre is in the process of

compiling an inventory of trade patterns including the most tradable items in the region and the various obstacles that have tended to stifle such trade. As soon as the study has been completed, a company will be forwarded to WARP for possible use in the pursuit of SO4.

- *Discussions with the Niger Livestock Association*

Niger produces some of the best bovine meat in Africa. Regrettably, despite the apparent over-production, the country exports very little to other parts of the region, with the exception of Nigeria.

The main reason for this is the lack of transportation and refrigeration facilities. Even in the limited case of Nigeria, the bulk of the exports take place in the Ramadan season. Their long-term objective therefore is to supply all the coastal countries in West Africa with limited life stock, mainly Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Benin, etc. in a sustained manner. In all their discussions with WARP they wanted to know what the Program could offer them, in terms of market information and logistical support. They were assured that while the former demand could in principle be met, the latter would rather tend to be outside the Program's remit.



A Shot from FIMA

Regional Conflict Prevention:-

The Na Wi Pot (It's Our Pot) consortium of NGOs comprising International Rescue Committee, Center for Victims of Torture, and Search For Common Ground/Talking Drum Studio, inaugurated the community radio station in Kailahun, north-east Sierra Leone on the weekend of 5-7 December, 2003 with a Peace Festival.



Celebrating the Kailahun radio station

The people of Kailahun and those living close to the Sierra Leone borders in Guinea and Liberia will be able to pick up locally developed programs that deal with issues faced by the people of the border region and serve as the medium for key social messages about conflict, gender-based violence and peace building. They will also receive factual information about resettlement, reintegration, and humanitarian assistance. Forty per cent of broadcast time will be in the local languages of Kissi and Mende.

Regional Environmental Advisor (REA) Update: -ROB CLAUSEN

In addition to getting settled in during this past quarter, the REA conducted two technical assistance field trips and provided technical support to other missions in the region.

Mali (October 19-23) – Visit to provide technical backstopping for climate change reporting and other ENR issues and IEE preparation for two projects in Niger (managed by the Mali mission).

Nigeria (November 3-7) – Visit to provide technical support for new Natural Resource Management /Agriculture program development, and review IEE amendments for ongoing agricultural work.

Technical support work from Accra office: Review materials and provide feedback in relation to Environmental Assessment scoping mission for

Senegal- Review of IEEs and annual reporting on environmental compliance for **Liberia**;

WARP- Review status of WARP IEEs.

Planned Next Quarter Activities:

Senegal – Participate in the scoping mission for Environmental Assessment of Mission’s NRM/Ag. initiative;
Mauritania – Technical backstopping visit;

Mali – Assist the Mission with developing environmental criteria in relation to new agricultural productivity, economic growth, watershed management initiative;

Nigeria – Technical assistance with design of NRM/Ag. program.

Regional – Initiate concept paper for trans-boundary natural resource initiative.

*** Note that Missions requiring the services of the Environmental Advisor should contact him as early as possible given the volume of requests for his services.**

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USAID WEST African Mission Directors

USAID/AFR/DP/SD and WA Directors

U.S. Ambassadors for West Africa Non-Presence countries

The WARP Quarterly Newsletter provides our readers with news about activities and events taking place in our program. Please submit all comments and thoughts about our Newsletter, to cdei@usaid.gov and mquarcoo@usaid.gov.

